

Message Text

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22

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /071 W

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R 012046Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 920

INFO ALL CONSULATES CANADA UNN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PGOV, CA

SUBJECT: CLC PROPOSAL TO GOC FOR TRIPARTITE POWER SHARING

REF: OTTAWA 2877

1. EMBASSY HAS OBTAINED FURTHER DETAILS ON CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS (CLC) CONFIDENTIAL PROPOSAL SUBMITTED TO CABINET DURING JULY 12 MEETING THAN THOSE CONTAINED IN REFTEL.

2. CLC POSITION PAPER CALLS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PLANNING IN WHICH LABOR AND BUSINESS WOULD HAVE EQUAL REPRESENTATION AND GOC WOULD ACT AS CHAIRMAN. THE COUNCIL WOULD BE CREATED BY LEGISLATION AND REPORT TO PARLIAMENT THROUGH A MINISTER. POWERS DELEGATED TO THIS COUNCIL WOULD BE CARRIED OUT BY SUBORDINATE BOARDS OR AGENCIES, A MAJOR ONE BEING A LABOR MARKET BOARD. IN ORDER TO FULFILL ITS ROLE OF "ADMINISTERING, OVERSEEING AND PURSUING A FULL-EMPLOYMENT POLICY THE LABOR MARKET BOARD MUST HAVE AUTHORITY TO CHANNEL INVESTMENT FUNDS, BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE" (DERIVED FROM GENERAL REVENUE AND PENSION FUNDS)" OR TO HOLD

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BACK ON PROPOSED PROJECTS SO THAT CYCLICAL AND

REGIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT CAN BE EVENED OUT."
FURTHERMORE CLC PROPOSES ENACTMENT OF LEGISLATION
REQUIRING COMPANIES TO DIVULGE BASIC INFORMATION
ON FINANCING, PRODUCTION PLANS, TECHNOLOGY AND
ADMINISTRATION AS WELL AS GIVING THE COUNCIL
AUTHORITY TO SUMMON COMPANIES AND EMPLOYEES TO
JUSTIFY PROPOSED INVESTMENT AND POLICY DECISIONS.

3. THE POSITION PAPER ALSO CALLS FOR AN EQUITABLE
DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME "WHICH WOULD NOT BE
POSSIBLE OUTSIDE THE CONTEXT OF GENERAL SOCIAL
AND ECONOMIC PLANNING." IN THIS AREA THE COUNCIL'S
AUTHORITY SHOULD INCLUDE PREVIEWING DRAFT LEGISLATION,
REVIEWING CURRENT LAS AND PRACTICES AND INITIATING
NEW PROGRAMS IN SUCH FIELDS AS OLD AGE PENSIONS,
WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION, FAMILY ALLOWANCES,
MINIMUM WAGES, HEALTH, UNEMPLOYMENT AND OTHER
SOCIAL WELFARE BENEFITS. FINALLY CLC ARGUES
THAT "ONE OF THE PRIMARY FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL
SHOULD BE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL
INDUSTRIAL POLICY" WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON
ENERGY, TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND FOOD PRODUCTION.
MINIMIZING CONSTITUTIONAL PROBLEMS IN FEDERAL-
PROVINCIAL RELATIONS THAT SOME OF ITS PROPOSALS
CONTAIN, CLC INSISTS THAT LARGE-SCALE DELGATION
OF POWERS IS NOT ONLY FEASIBLE BUT IS ALREADY WELL
ESTABLISHED IN FORM OF AGRICULTURAL MARKETING AND
NATIONAL ENERGY BOARDS.

4. COMMENT: AS NOTED IN PREVIOUS REPORTING ON
THIS SUBJECT, GOC, WHICH HAS NOT YET FORMALLY
RESPONDED, CONSIDERS CLC PROPOSAL TOO AMBITIOUS
IF NOT OVERLY SOCIALISTIC. BUSINESS COMMUNITY
WITH WHICH GOC PLANS TO HAVE DISUCSSIONS BEFORE
FURTHER MEETING WITH LABOR IS BOUND TO BE OPPOSED
TO SUCH VAST INTEFERENCE IN ECONOMIC LIFE. ON
OTHER HAD, CLC LEADERS ARE PRAGMATIC ENOUGH TO
CONSIDER THEIR PROPOSAL ONLY AS AN INITIAL
BARGAINING POSTURE FORMING BASIS FOR FURTHER
DISCUSSIONS WITH GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS LEADERS
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SOME TIME AFTER OCTOBER 14 "DAY OF PROTEST" IN
OPPOSITION TO WAGE AND PRICE CONTROLS.
DUEMLING

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